

Open Space Answers to CPA questions

January 15, 2016

The answers to the CPA Open Space projects are below.

Open Space Surveys and Appraisals -- \$

- **How much money remains in this account?**

After reviewing the accounts, there remains \$20,000 for appraisals and surveys. However, there are a few current projects that will use these funds for surveys and will reduce the available balance.

- **Why aren't appraisal costs rolled into the cost of purchasing a property as the cost of holding the restriction is?**

Appraisals and surveys are itemized separately because they are used as part of the initial investigation and assessment of a property or project, even if that project is not completed. These costs are also not typically eligible for reimbursement through grant programs, so that the Town must expend the funds first to move a project forward in order to apply for grants or other funding.

- **Why ask for an increased amount this year? Could they do with a smaller amount?**

Staff reduces the request to \$15,000.

11 Hoerle Property APR

- **Is this the exact same proposal we received in the past? Have the numbers changed?**

This is the same project that was previewed in the past. At this time the project has the support of the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR), the property owner, Kestrel Trust and the Town. The project is included in MDAR's 2017 plan to be purchased through the Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) program. The APR program will provide \$616,500 to preserve the property as farmland while the Town's match is \$68,500.

12 Cushman Conservation

- No questions

Sincerely,

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